

SPiRiT OF THE PRESS.

EDITORIAL OPINIONS OF THE LEADING JOURNALS UPON CURRENT TOPICS—COMPILED EVERY DAY FOR THE EVENING TELEGRAPH.

About New York.

From the N. Y. Tribune. We are often anxiously asked how New York will go in the pending election, and have no time to answer our querists severally. Where their letters imply that we have a private opinion different from that which we express in these columns, we have no wish to answer them. We pretend to no exclusive, no occult sources of information. Here follow some of the considerations which underpin our conviction that New York, like most of her sister States, will vote for Grant and Colfax:—

1. Since the Republican party was formed, it has never failed to carry its State on its vigorous canvass and a full poll, though it has often failed at other times. It was badly beaten in 1855, yet it gave Fremont 80,000 plurality in 1856. The State went against us the next year (1857) by a heavy plurality on a light vote; yet we elected Governor Morgan in 1858 by nearly 20,000 plurality. In 1859, the combined Democratic and Know-Nothing vote beat several of our State candidates; yet in 1860 we met the supporters of Douglas, Breckinridge, and Bell, compactly arrayed against us, and beat them by nearly 50,000 majority. Up to this time, it has been said, "You Republicans are but a plurality; if your adversaries were united, they would overwhelm you;" but, when they did unite, they were beaten most signally.

In 1861 a Union ticket prevailed by a very large majority, though Seymour, Hoffman, Church & Co. did their best to defeat it; yet in 1862 they rallied all their forces under Seymour for Governor, and, in the absence of fifty thousand of our voters at the front, they squarely beat us by 10,000 majority. The very next year, we reversed the judgment by 60,000, and in '64 we turned Seymour out and gave the vote of our State to Lincoln by seven to eight thousand majority. We held the State firmly in '65 and '66, but lost it in the general collapse of 1867.

Thus, from the day in which the Republican party was formed, we have never lost this State on a full vote, never lost it twice in succession, and never lost it twice in the same Presidential term. We are confident that this year will establish no exception to these rules.

An enormous, unprecedented proportion of our voters were absent in Europe and traveling on business in every direction when our last year's State election was held. Out not less from this cause was not less than 25,000 votes. Then the results of the elections in California, Pennsylvania, Ohio, etc., had disappointed and disheartened us. Of the four Republican dailies published in this city, three were doing nothing to call out our vote, but very much, we thought, to keep it away from the polls. Our local legislation and canal management had temporarily disaffected many thousands of earnest Republicans. So the disasters of the year culminated in our defeat by 50,000 majority; swelled from 10,000 to 20,000 by fraudulent naturalizations, and by double and treble voting in this city and Brooklyn.

"But can't they cheat you just so (or worse) this year?" No, they cannot. We shall be wide awake and on the alert this year. We shall be watching the villains who make a trade of voting illegally at the naturalization mills, at the Registrars, and at the polls. They do not fear the officers whose duty it is to prosecute them to punishment; but we shall make the State too hot for them if they attempt to repeat the wholesale frauds of recent years, especially last year.

We are awake and at work. Our watchfires never yet burned brighter so early in the canvass than they do to-day. Our rank and file were never more zealous, more confident, nor more active. They are more confident of Grant's election than we wish they were, for they are the best when somewhat apprehensive of defeat. But there is hardly a Republican in the State who does not personally know of some change in our favor, and there is danger that too many will regard our triumph as already secured.

We do not want one illegal vote polled for Grant and Colfax, and shall not have a hundred in the entire State. We have at least four hundred thousand legal voters who desire that our candidates should be and believe that they will be elected; and there are not three hundred and eighty thousand legal voters in the State who desire Seymour's election. Every vote he gets above 375,000 will owe to deliberate and concerted fraud.

Still, we have a very difficult, arduous, energetic canvass before us. Thousands of our voters are absent in Europe and on voyages in every sea. Many are travelling on business, or looking through the West and Southwest for future homes. If the election were to-morrow, we should not poll our full vote by at least fifty thousand. To call our voters home from every quarter is a work requiring systematic effort. It can only be effected by an efficient organization in every election district and a most effective canvass. Then we have to fight coffee-colored Naturalization papers and legions of alien swindlers who mean to vote if they can and as often as they dare. The work required is immense; yet it must and will be done.

Friends, North and South, East and West, do not distrust New York! She never failed you yet, at a critical moment, except in '62, when at least fifty thousand of her noblest voters were carrying muskets in Dixie or sleeping beneath its turf. The casualties of war have seriously cut down our majority, but have not destroyed it. You will have to work very hard and to very good purpose to do better in your several States than the Empire State will do for Grant and Colfax and a loyal peace.

Mexico—Washington Rumors—General Rosecrans.

From the N. Y. Herald. General Rosecrans' mission to Mexico and its objects, together with the instructions he is to receive from the State Department, are themes of lively interest and speculation just now in Washington. We mentioned on Saturday the probable difficulty between the new Minister and Mr. Seward with regard to enforcing the telegraph, express company, railroad, and other claims in which Thurlow Weed and the members of the Seward family are interested. It is said now that General Rosecrans is to be invested with power to prop up the Juárez Government, even by using the forces of the United States if necessary, and to take, by way of compensation, a large slice of Northern Mexico. This looks like a great job to sustain and give value to the vast land grants and schemes in Lower California and Sonora, in which Ben Butler, George Wilkes, Forney, the Washington lobby, and a host of Wall Street speculators are interested. That cunning little diplomat, Romero, with a host of Mexican chiefs and leading military men of the United States, appears to be mixed up with and to favor this project. Romero and the Juárez chiefs of Mexico see, probably, that

there is no other way to maintain the existing Government there against rival factions and leaders than by the strong arm of the United States. At the same time our own leading military men want active employment. Their ambition and warlike spirit chafe under the present inaction, and they want new fields of glory. It is rather significant, too, that just at this time General Rosecrans is hobnobbing at the Virginia sulphur springs with those splendid Rebel generals and fighters, Robert K. Lee, Longstreet, Beauregard, Ewell, Echols, Governor Pickens, and others. Does this mean harmony, reunion, and reconstruction among the military heroes and chiefs of the South with the military heroes of the North on the basis of a new Mexican policy and a new field of united action for all? Are the men who fought side by side in our war with Mexico again to become brothers in arms to regenerate that country? This is an interesting question. It is certain nothing would tend so much to allay bad feeling arising out of our civil war, and to unite these men and the whole country in fraternal feeling as an outside war, and the glory of extending our empire.

But, as we have said frequently, half measures will not do. To use the navy and army of the United States to maintain one faction in Mexico against the others, or to support a weak and rotten government that cannot stand alone, would be impolitic and absurd. The death-knell of Mexico as a nationality is sounded. We drove out the French and the bogus foreign imperial government at the risk of a great European power and set the republican government of Mexico on its legs. It has had a fair chance, but it cannot exist without foreign aid. The whole country is disorganized and demoralized politically. Our duty is plain. We should take not a slice of the northern portion only, for the benefit of a few speculators, but the whole country—by negotiation if possible, or by force of arms if we must. The Mexican people have tried every form of government and have failed. They have been a constant trouble to the United States, and may continue to be so if allowed to remain in their disorganized condition. It would be better, in the interest of both countries that Mexico should be annexed. The Mexicans would soon value the peace we should give them, the rapid increase of their wealth and the glory of being a part of the great republic, while we should reap the advantage of American enterprise in the richest country on the globe and in a vast development of trade and commerce. The time has come when all this should be accomplished. If President Johnson can see what is for the interest of his own country as well as for Mexico, and what would give him immortal fame, he will send General Rosecrans away at once with instructions to work for the immediate annexation of the whole of that territory, from Arizona to Central America.

The Prospect.

From the N. Y. Times. We have heard thus far the voice of Oregon and of Kentucky. The former came to us before the Democratic party had announced either its policy or its candidates. The result of the election in that State indicates, therefore, no more than did the elections of last autumn. Those elections proved clearly that there was an aversion to an extreme policy. When the election was held in Oregon, it was the general impression that the Democratic party would take a far different course from that which it actually adopted in July; that it would learn a lesson from former defeats; that it would honestly accept the popular verdict of 1866, and reject its exploded fallacies of State sovereignty and "a white man's Government." This impression proved to be false; and when Oregon speaks next November we shall witness the indignation of the people of that State against a party which has reopened questions that were supposed to be settled at the cost of so much blood and treasure.

The result of the election in Kentucky is not strange. In 1860 the Democratic vote, as against the Republican, stood 143,793 to 136,4. In 1864, when the Union sentiment was quickened by the existence of a struggle then actually going on between loyalty and treason, the Union vote rose to 27,736 against an opposition of 64,301. This vote, it will be remarked—counting both the Union and the opposition—fell over 50,000 short of the vote of 1860, and these 50,000 voters were in the Confederate army. If they had voted, the opposition would have reached 118,000. They were present in 1866; yet the justice of the fourteenth amendment was so evident that the Republican vote gained over 30,000, rising to 68,035. In 1867 the reaction affected Kentucky as it did other States, and the Republican vote stood 33,939 against an opposition of 103,392. This year, owing to a local sentiment peculiar to Kentucky, and which cannot be considered as affecting any Northern State, there has been a transference of nearly 8000 votes to the Opposition, which has also gained from other sources about 4000 more; so that the result stands, Opposition, 115,524, Republican, 26,275, giving a Democratic majority of 89,249, against a majority last year of 69,453. No one who understands the terrorism which prevails in Kentucky can be surprised at this result. And in this connection it is a remarkable fact that the total vote cast this year is less than in 1860, and 14,000 less than in 1866. It is estimated—and we see reason to doubt the statement—that at the late election fully 25,000 votes were not polled, two-thirds of which have been Republican. Thus the Kentucky election, when we consider all the elements which entered into it, gives really no indication as to the vote in other States, and by no means justifies the premature confidence of the Democratic party.

We are not disposed to be over-confident, but we believe that the elections to be held in Vermont and Maine on the 1st and 14th of September, will result in strong Republican gains over the majorities of 1867. In California, which holds its election September 2, there was a Democratic majority of over 9000 last year. But the Republican vote was then divided between two candidates. This State gave Lincoln a majority of 18,000 in 1864, and we believe it will give Grant as large a majority in November.

On the 13th of October four States hold elections—Iowa, Indiana, Ohio, and Pennsylvania. West Virginia holds its election on the 14th. In regard to the latter State there is no doubt; in 1865 the Republican majority was nearly 7000, and it will certainly not be less this autumn. In both Iowa and Indiana we expect a Republican majority equal to that of 1864. Ohio was carried last year by a Republican majority of 3000; this autumn that majority will be increased probably ten-fold. Pennsylvania last year gave the Democrats less than 1000 majority; this year it bids fair, with proper effort, to go Republican.

But, after all, our trust is not so much in statistics as in the people, who have always shown themselves equal to the emergency presented. We know that a solid white vote can carry the Southern States for Grant and Seymour; we know also that many of the negroes will be coerced to vote the same ticket. In those States, therefore, we will not venture a prediction. But it seems to us certain that in the Northern States, where the people all vote freely, there will be no decided majority for Grant and Colfax that the Southern vote,

whichever way it may turn, will be of no importance.

Deny the Democratic party, if it had adopted the wisest course, might have retained over 200,000 votes given in its favor in 1867. But it has been diving too deep. It seeks to undermine the very foundations upon which rest our national prosperity, credit, and security. It is to be supposed for one moment that a party which proposes to carry us back to the situation which we occupied in 1860 can be supported by the people? And does not the Democratic party propose precisely this? Does it not go back to the very questions the agitation about which brought on civil war? In pronouncing the Reconstruction acts unconstitutional and void, it proposes distinctly to annul the Constitutions of the reconstructed States, and the moment this purpose is executed, what follows? The disfranchisement of the negroes, in the first place, and then, in order to keep the black race in subjection, there must be a return to the enslavement of negroes in some sort, either by the old system or by oppressive black codes like those which reconstruction suppressed. The success of the Democratic party, proposing what that party proposes, would undo all that the war accomplished, both as regards slavery and State sovereignty. It is not strange, then, that Cobb and Hampton, and the rest, preach to the South a revival of the "lost cause."

But do the people want this "lost cause" revived? Have they forgotten the war forced upon them by the Southern branch of the Democratic party, and the terrible burden of debt incurred, to say nothing of the sacrifice of precious lives? After the manner of a Democratic triumph in the November elections. But the American people are not for long memories. They were magnanimous—they were willing to bury the war in the most absolute oblivion, when once its legitimate results were accomplished. But the Democratic party will not let them do this. It has revived all the old issues. The people met those issues once, and they are prepared to meet them again.

Bonaparte and Bismark.

From the N. Y. World. It is a sad mistake to suppose that in the game which for two years past has been playing between France and Prussia for the primacy of Europe, all the points, or even the most important points, have so far been made by Count Bismark. After the manner of a Democratic triumph in the November elections, and which gave Prussia for a moment the supreme control of the destinies of Germany, came the peace of Nikolburg—the work mainly, as is now conceded, of the French Emperor—by which the Prussians were arrested in their triumphant achievement of German unity.

How serious a check was administered to the ambition of Prussia by the peace of Nikolburg Europe is only just now beginning to appreciate. It is true that for the gravity of the consequences which have since developed themselves from that peace, the wisdom and obduracy of the Prussian Government in attempting to ignore the state of things created by the peace must be largely held responsible. Where Prussia might have conciliated andajoled she has chosen to browbeat and to alienate the South-German communities. She has over-estimated the force of attraction towards herself which resided in the influence of her brilliant military successes upon the South-German imagination and in the awakening of the historic and traditional yearnings of the German heart for an imperial German unity. She has underestimated the force of repulsion from herself which resided in the spectacle of Prussian authority ruthlessly crushing out local independence and trampling upon provincial prejudices, as well as in the severity of the Prussian military regulations and of the fiscal system of Prussia—suddenly applied to populations long habituated either to a really prosperous and comfortable autonomy, or to easy-going forms of unexecuted despotism.

But even had Prussia made no such mistakes as she has made since 1866, it is certain that the South German States, which were protected by the peace of Nikolburg in their independence, contained within themselves the seeds of an inevitable opposition to the Prussian scheme for reorganizing Germany around the Prussian throne. These seeds might perhaps have been easily killed, and the mistakes of Prussia neutralized, had the Emperor Napoleon permitted himself to be carried away either last year or the year before by the influence of the great events in Germany upon the popular feeling in France, and upon the minds of men who, like Napoleon, were trained in the state-manship of a long age. But the Emperor Napoleon had the good sense to go to Germany in 1867 himself, and the coolness to see with his own eyes the actual condition of affairs in the Southern States. Fortunately for himself and for France, and it may well be for Germany also, he has since had the firmness to adhere to the policy of patience and forbearance which in that visit, if never before, suggested itself to his judgment as the only policy by which France could hope successfully to reconcile the development of German unity with the maintenance of her own position in Europe.

A striking speech delivered at the recent grand German Schuetzenfest in Vienna by the leading journalist of Stuttgart, who is also a conspicuous member of the Diet of Wurttemberg, shows us plainly how much ground the Emperor has already in this way gained for the idea of a free German Confederation, upon Count Bismark's theory of a Prussianized Germany as set forth in that constitution of the North German Confederation which Mr. George Bancroft has been foolish enough to liken to the American Union.

In response to a toast given to the "early restoration of the Fatherland," itself a sufficiently significant form of words, Dr. Meyer, of Stuttgart, after alluding to the impression that German unity would be attained by the fusion of the whole Fatherland into the "North German Confederation," went on to say boldly and openly, "speaking for myself, and in the name of the majority of the Saxon people, let me tell you that we hold the firm conviction it is another way which is to lead to the unity and grandeur of Germany. At all events, it is certain that my country cannot continue to exist long under the present regime. In 1866 it happened that a rash of German people were violently expelled from Germany, with foreign aid. But Germany is a German people, stronger than M. Von Bismark; and it will be, I hope, that statesman who shall in the end make the unity of Germany."

These words, we are told, were received with immense applause, and the unmistakable allusion to the violent extrusion of German Austria from the German family was especially cheered.

However important it may be to Prussia, in this state of the case, to precipitate a conflict with France, in the hope that such a conflict may be easily converted from a Prussian into a German war, it is equally clear that it is not less important for France to postpone such a conflict. Not to do so now would be for Napoleon to sacrifice wantonly all the advantages which, at the price of a good deal of gnawing at home and of more obloquy abroad, he has been quietly winning over his

wily but impetuous adversary during the past two years.

And this the more unquestionably that time, which has thus been working against Bismark and for Bonaparte in the South, has been bringing about a similar result in the West.

The difficulty of last year between France and Prussia over the question of Luxembourg, and the chronic crises which from Paris to Berlin, and Berlin to Paris, have echoed and re-echoed the passionate song of Carl Becker, and the scornful response of Alfred de Musset about the ownership of the Rhine, these after all have only indicated that real body of mischief in the West over which a war between France and Prussia, should such a war break out, will be waged. This is simply the possession of the Netherlands, under which term history knows that region lying between the North Sea and the Rhine which, after being for ages the "cockpit of Europe," has known a comparative tranquility for half a century past as the kingdoms of Holland and of Belgium. Of these two kingdoms Holland alone can be said to possess a genuine nationality. The Dutch have a history, a great national character, a religion, a language of their own. The Belgians are made up of Walloons, of Flemings, and of Frenchmen. The French language predominates in their provinces, and, save so far as the long domination of the House of Austria may be said to have made them Spaniards or Austrians, there is no reason to be drawn from the traditions of Flanders and Brabant, Hainault, and Liomburg, which should lead one to suppose that their people would find it any more difficult to make themselves Frenchmen than their kinsmen of Lille and Valenciennes have done.

The existence of Belgium as an independent monarchy since 1830 has been mainly supported by the existence in France and England of the old protective system. So long as this system prevailed, Belgium, which was taken by England particularly under her wing, was the natural economic enemy of France, while she was indispensable to English trade with the continent. But ever since the establishment by Napoleon in 1861 of comparative free trade with England, and particularly since the adoption by Belgium in 1835 of the principles of the Anglo-French treaty, the natural drift of things has gradually made a closer alliance of Belgium with France, desirable not only to Belgium and to France but to England also. Ten years ago a serious project for the annexation of Belgium to France would have meant an immediate war between France and England. To-day such a project would be quite as likely to be forwarded as to be thwarted even by a Tory Government in England; and it is extremely probable that Lord Stanley's recent and rather ostentatious declaration that France and England were quite at one in regard to the "present and prospective events" on the Continent, may have been meant to convey a distinct intimation of this important fact to the Prussian Government. For up to this moment the only distinct effect which has been produced in the Netherlands by the menacing possibility of a Franco-Prussian conflict for the possession of that ancient and fertile region has been to rouse the Dutch into a fever of hostility to Prussia, while the party in Belgium friendly to union with France has gained strength with each new demonstration of Count Bismark's ambition.

Whatever may be the issue, then, of the actual and most interesting state of things in the Old World, history, at least, will give the palm of practical statesmanship during the critical period which has elapsed since the thunder-storm of July, 1866, to the head of the Bonapartes, rather than to the right hand of the Hohenzollerns.

SUMMER RESORTS.

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